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Commander Robert C. BARNHART, Jr., USN, today was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with combat "V" for meritorious service on the night of 4 August 1964 as Commanding Officer of the U. S. Navy destroyer USS TURNER JOY (DD951) in action against North Vietnamese motor torpedo boats in the Gulf of Tonkin. Rear Admiral Donald G. IRVINE, USN, Commander of Cruiser-Destroyer Flotilla THREE, presented the award to Commander BARNHART in ceremonies held on board the destroyer tender USS FRONTIER (AD25) at the U. S. Naval Base, Los Angeles - Long Beach. The TURNER JOY, homeported in Long Beach, is one of the forty-six ships in Cruiser-Destroyer Flotilla THREE and is presently a unit of the United States FIRST Fleet.

The citation accompanying Commander BARNHART's Bronze Star Medal read in part: "With his vessel under almost continuous gunfire and torpedo attack by hostile PT craft for a period of about two and one-half hours, Commander BARNHART fought his ship with outstanding skill and cool courage, inflicting severe damage on enemy craft without casualty or damage to his own vessel. His professional competence and devotion to duty throughout were in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service."

The Bronze Star Medal is one of the Navy's highest decorations. It is awarded to a member of the Armed Forces who distinguishes himself by heroism or meritorious achievement or services in connection with military or naval operations not involving aerial flight against an opposing hostile force.

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Enclosure (1)

Commander BARNHART, 44, is a native of Johnstown, Pennsylvania, and a graduate of the United States Naval Academy. He presently resides with his wife, Paula Jeane, and four children in Sunset Beach, California.

USS TURNER JOY (DD-951)

The United States Navy is charged with the high task of maintaining global peace through the employment of flexible, mobile sea power. An essential element of the Navy's flexibility and mobility is its destroyer force, of which USS TURNER JOY is a proud member.

USS TURNER JOY is named in honor of the late Admiral C. Turner Joy, USN, a distinguished naval figure of World War II and the Korean War. As Commanding Officer of the cruiser USS LOUISVILLE, and later as Cruiser Division Commander, he participated in numerous campaigns in the Pacific during World War II, including Guadalcanal, the Philippines, and Iwo Jima. During the Korean War, Admiral Joy was both Commander, United States Naval Forces in the Far East and Senior United Nations Delegate at the Panmunjom truce talks. For his service, Admiral Joy was awarded his fourth Legion of Merit.

The TURNER JOY is a general-purpose destroyer of the latest post-war class, the last of her kind to be built. She measures 418 feet in length, 45 feet, 6 inches abeam, and displaces 3900 tons. Her steam turbines and twin screws propel her at speeds greater than 30 knots. Her firepower consists of three 5-inch dual-purpose guns and one twin 3-inch rapid-fire mount for surface and anti-aircraft firing. She also carries modern anti-submarine weapons and is designed for the installation of more advanced weapons now under development. Her crew consists of more than 250 officers and men, who are trained for such diverse duties as anti-submarine warfare, anti-air warfare, shore bombardment, and the screening of high-speed combat vessels.

The keel of USS TURNER JOY was laid September 30, 1957. Launched on May 5, 1958 she was christened by Admiral Joy's widow, Mrs. C. Turner Joy. The ship was built by the Puget Sound Bridge and Dredging Company of Seattle, Washington, for the United States Navy and placed in commission on August 3, 1959.

Upon completion of her fitting out at the Puget Sound Naval Shipyard in Bremerton, Washington, the TURNER JOY made a thirty-day goodwill tour to Central and South America. At Puntarenas, Costa Rica, the President of Costa Rica came aboard for an official visit, the first ever made by a president of that nation to a United States naval vessel. After shakedown training in San Diego and a post-shakedown availability at Bremerton, the TURNER JOY arrived in Long Beach, California, where she joined Destroyer Squadron THIRTEEN as Squadron Flagship in March 1960. Two months later she deployed to the Far East and operated as part of the SEVENTH Fleet until November, 1960. Operations included lifeguard duty for President Eisenhower's Far East Visit, Formosa Patrol and maneuvers with the Fast Carrier Task Forces. During this deployment the TURNER JOY visited the Philippines, Thailand, Taiwan, and Japan. Upon her return to Long Beach in November, the ship reported to Commander FIRST Fleet for duty.

After a period of upkeep in late 1960, TURNER JOY participated in type and fleet exercises until August 1961. The performance of ship and crew during this period earned the TURNER JOY the Type Commander's "E" for Battle Efficiency. She then commenced her first shipyard overhaul, at which time newer, more effective equipment was installed. Following the overhaul, the ship joined Destroyer Squadron NINETEEN as Squadron Flagship.

June 1962 found the TURNER JOY deploying once again to the Far East, where she operated as part of a Fast Carrier Attack Force in the SEVENTH Fleet, and primarily with the USS BON HOMME RICHARD. The bonds of co-operation between carrier and destroyer sailors were forged more closely when, on the night of September 22, a downed pilot from the BON HOMME RICHARD was rescued by the TURNER

life guard detail. Places visited during this deployment included the Philippines, Japan and Hong Kong.

Upon her return to Long Beach and the FIRST Fleet in December, 1962, the TURNER JOY was awarded four plaques by Commander, Cruiser-Destroyer Flotilla THREE, for performance in the flotilla-wide competition for the period of 1 November 1961 - 31 December 1962. Included were awards for Expert in Mobility, Anti-Air Warfare, Anti-Submarine Warfare, and First Place in Flotilla Competition.

From January through April 1963, the TURNER JOY underwent upkeep and participated in numerous type training exercises. A shipyard overhaul at Mare Island, California, followed in May, where more modern equipment was installed. Returning to Long Beach in June, the ship began another period of type and fleet exercises. Once again, the skill of the TURNER JOY's crew earned her a Battle Efficiency "E", awarded by Commander, Cruiser-Destroyer Flotilla THREE, in August 1963. The ship's training and upkeep cycle continued until the following spring, when the TURNER JOY deployed to the Western Pacific for the third time.

Upon reporting to Commander SEVENTH Fleet in March 1964, the TURNER JOY commenced what appeared to be a routine deployment. She alternately operated with fast attack carrier task groups in the South China Sea and visited Far Eastern ports including Subic Bay in the Philippines, Hong Kong, and Yokosuka, Sasebo, Yokohama in Japan. During her stay in Yokohama on 15 and 16 May, more than 4,000 Japanese, including a group of 54 orphans, visited the ship.

The tenor of the cruise changed on 2 August, when the USS MADDOX was attacked by North Vietnamese motor torpedo boats in the Gulf of Tonkin. The TURNER JOY was dispatched immediately to the aid of the MADDOX. Two nights later, on 4 August, both destroyers were attacked in the Gulf by numerous high-speed torpedo boats. In the ensuing engagement which lasted more than two hours, the TURNER JOY sank two motor torpedo boats and damaged two others while sustaining no damage to herself.

Following subsequent routine operations in the South China Sea, the TURNER JOY returned to Long Beach and FIRST Fleet on 2 October 1964.

In November, TURNER JOY and MADDOX, which formed United States Task Group 72.1, were awarded the Navy Unit Commendation in the following citation:

"For outstanding heroism in action against hostile forces in the Gulf of Tonkin during the period 2 - 5 August 1964. In the face of unprovoked torpedo and gunfire attack in international waters, Task Group 72.1 repelled repeated assaults by North Vietnamese motor torpedo boats. The immediate and determined response of the Task Group resulted in the sinking, damaging, or driving from the scene the attacking torpedo boats. By so doing, the Task Group demonstrated the firm intent of the United States to maintain freedom of the seas and to take all necessary measures in defense of peace in Southeast Asia."

TURNER JOY commenced regular overhaul at Long Beach Naval Shipyard on 18 December 1964.